

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /081 W

-----005638 300941Z /13

R 291500Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9818

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY BONN

USUN NY 319

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1073

DEPT PLEASE REPEAT INFO TO OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, US, SF,DM, WA

SUBJECT: BRIEFING BENINESE ON NAMIBIA

REF: A. COTONOU 1047 (NOTAL), B. STATE 142381, C. STATE 144740
(NOTAL)

1. SINCE FRENCH AMBASSADOR MEADMORE WAS UNDER STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE NAMIBIA DEMARCHE TO GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN (GPRB), HE ARRANGED JOINT MEETING FOR HIMSELF, GERMAN AMBASSADOR HELDT, AND ME WITH BENINESE FOREIGN MINISTER ALLADAYE JUNE 28. AFTER FRENCH AMBASSADOR CAREFULLY READ OFF TALKING POINTS CONTAINED REF B, HE ASKED FOR FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS, STRESSING THAT DEMARCHE WAS BEING CONFIDENTIAL

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MADE STRICTLY FOR PURPOSE OF KEEPING AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS INFORMED OF EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT NAMIBIA'S INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT RESORTING TO VIOLENCE. FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO HAD TAKEN NOTES THROUGHOUT BRIEFING, RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD TRANSMIT MAIN POINTS OF BRIEFING TO HIS GOVERNMENT. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE THANKED REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE GOVERNMENTS FOR TAKING TIME TO BRIEF HIM, ADDING THAT BENIN DID NOT FEEL THAT IT COULD

SPEAK FOR NAMIBIA. HE STRESSED THAT NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE MUST BE DETERMINED SOLELY ACCORDING TO THE WISHES OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE. IF THEY OPTED FOR A SOLUTION SUCH AS THAT PROPOSED BY THE CONTACT GROUP, BENIN WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION. IF, HOWEVER, NAMIBIAN PEOPLE REJECTED THIS APPROACH, BENIN WOULD BE OBLIGED TO RESPECT THEIR WISHES.

2. COMMENT: SINCE ALLADAYE DISLIKES ANY UNNECESSARY DISCUSSION OF CONTENTIOUS ISSUES, HE COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO RESPOND IN THIS FASHION. HIS WORDS SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, SUGGEST THAT BENIN IS MODERATING ITS SUPPORT FOR SWAPO, SINCE IT HAS ALREADY PUBLICLY AND FREQUENTLY COMMITTED ITSELF TO THE SWAPO INDEPENDENCE FORMULA.
THOMPSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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